

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD



Notice of Draft EIS Scoping Decision

Independent Spent Nuclear Fuel Installation at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the EQB has prepared a Draft Scoping Decision for an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed dry cask storage facility for spent nuclear fuel at Xcel Energy's Monticello Generating Plant. The Draft Scoping Decision, which identifies issues and analyses for the EIS, is a preliminary document based on information currently available. It is subject to revision based on the entire record of the scoping process. Comments on the draft scope are due to the EQB by **April 13, 2005** at the address provided below.

The Project. Xcel Energy plans to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in March 2005 for a twenty-year license renewal that would allow its Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant to operate until 2030. On January 18, 2005 Xcel Energy applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a certificate of need for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The proposed ISFSI would be approximately 200 feet by 460 feet and store up to 30 dry storage canisters in concrete vaults within the plant boundary. The proposed ISFSI is designed to have enough storage capacity to allow the Monticello plant to continue operating until 2030. The EQB must prepare an EIS before the PUC can make its certificate of need decision. Minn. Stat. §116C.83, subd. 6(b). The federal license renewal review is also requires a separate EIS (generic and supplemental) by the NRC.

Public Open House/ EIS Scoping Comment Meeting. A public open house/ scoping meeting will be held **Monday, April 4, 2005** beginning at 2:00 pm until approximately 9:00 p.m. at the **Monticello Community Center, Mississippi Room, 505 Walnut Street in the City of Monticello, Minnesota**. The meeting will use an open house format in which the public is invited to stop by when it is most convenient, to review information about the proposed project, to learn more about the state review processes and comment on the draft scope of the planned EIS. In addition, the meeting will include a presentation at 7:00 p.m., by Xcel Energy and the EQB staff, followed by an open public comment opportunity on the draft EIS scope.

Draft EIS Scope Availability. Public review copies of the Draft Scoping Decision Document and Scoping EAW have been placed in the following locations: Monticello Public Library - 200 West 6th St, Monticello, Big Lake Public Library; 160 Lake St S, Big Lake, 55309; Becker Public Library; 11500 Sherburne Ave, Becker, 55308; the DNR

Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul; the Minneapolis Public Library – Technology and Science, 250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis. Copies of the draft scoping document can be obtained by calling Andrea at the EQB at 651-296-2571. Also, the scoping document, a discussion forum, and other information are also available on line at:
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=9901>

Draft EIS Comment Due Date: Formal comments on the proposed scope of the Monticello ISFSI EIS are due to EQB by **Wednesday, April 13, 2005**. The EQB staff will then revise the proposed EIS scope based on comments. The scoping decision will then likely come before the EQB at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 19, 2005. Comments on the draft EIS scope should be sent by e-mail or U.S. mail to:

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